



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
North Pacific Division

Columbia River Update

Volume 1 Issue #2

<http://www.npd.usace.army.mil/#news>

March 21, 1997

High flows expected throughout the Columbia-Snake river system this year may have significant impacts on river operations. This is the second issue of the Columbia River Update on the runoff and flow situation.

Seasonal Volume Forecast

The River Forecast Center provided a March final forecast that is changed slightly from the February forecast.

The April through September runoff volume forecasts show 123 percent of normal volume at Grand Coulee Dam and 129 percent of normal at The Dalles Dam. The April through July runoff volume forecast is 151 percent of normal at Lower Granite Dam.

Anticipated Flows

The March 1997 Final Water Supply Forecast has been revised from the February level.

Peak spring flows at The Dalles (the index point for Portland/Vancouver harbor) are expected to range from 453,000 to 533,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). At Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River spring flows could range from 252,000 to 345,000 cfs.

Scheduled Nav Lock Maintenance

There is a lock outage tentatively scheduled at John Day Dam April 10 and 11, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm each day, for completion of work on the downstream navigation lock gate.

Navigation

Siltation from high flows in the Columbia River from the Portland area to the mouth of the river, has necessitated dredging about a month earlier than normal. Shoaling had decreased channel depth to 34 feet in some areas; the channel is being dredged to 40 feet.

Water Supply and Irrigation

John Day Reservoir was drafted this week to elevation 261.5, but is now refilling.

Juvenile Fish Passage

Spill was provided at Bonneville Dam from March 13 to 20 for the Spring Creek Hatchery fish release.

Dissolved Gas

The Columbia River gas monitoring system is up and running.

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